

and the Mansels Baronets of Margam, etc.). There is a Gabbett connection in the Ontarian Families of the late Bishop Fuller of Niagara and Chadwick.

Yours, &c., DAVID ROSS McCORD.

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### Mobility—English and Continental.

IN the genealogy of the family of Von Ebertz, printed in this number, mention is made of a grant or patent of nobility being made to an ancestor of that family by the Emperor Charles V. It may be well to explain to our readers that in former times the people of European countries were rather arbitrarily divided into "nobles," or "patricians" (meaning not only persons of baronial or higher rank, but including a large number untitled), and "ignobles" or "plebeians." This distinction even now continues in some sort, but it is so utterly and absurdly at variance with all social conditions of modern life, that, speaking generally, its existence can hardly be regarded as more than theoretical. Attempts by certain heraldic writers, and even heraldic authorities, have been made to introduce similar distinctions into England, but only in the periods of heraldic decadence and debasement. The whole notion is, and always has been, inconsistent with British character and social customs. There is no class in the British Isles corresponding to the continental "nobles" or "patricians," though some have assumed or asserted untitled persons bearing arms to be so. There are writers of the present day who insist upon this view, to the great disadvantage of the true spirit of heraldry, but they will, no doubt, maintain their opinion in vain, for such imaginary social distinctions as a